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Summary record of the 29th meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Tuesday, 25 November 2008, at 10 a.m.

Chairperson: Ms. Ogwu ..... (Nigeria)

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08-61680 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 10.20 a.m.

Agenda item 54: Operational activities for development (*continued*) (A/C.2/63/L.43)

Draft resolution on the High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation

1. **Ms. Greenaway** (Antigua and Barbuda) introduced draft resolution A/C.2/63/L.43 on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, noting that 2008 marked the thirtieth anniversary of the adoption of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries.

Agenda item 47: Macroeconomic policy questions (*continued*)

(a) International trade and development (*continued*) *(A/C.2/63/L.8, A/C.2/63/L.35*, A/C.2/63/L.49)*

Draft resolution on the report of the twelfth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

2. **The Chairperson** invited the Committee to take action on draft resolution A/C.2/63/L.35*, which had no programme budget implications.

3. *Draft resolution A/C.2/63/L.35* was adopted.*

Draft resolution on international trade and development

4. **The Chairperson** introduced draft resolution A/C.2/63/L.49, which was being submitted by Mr. Hoppe (Germany), Vice-Chairperson of the Committee, on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C 2/63/L.8. The draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

5. *Draft resolution A/C.2/63/L.49 was adopted.*

6. *Draft resolution A/C.2/63/L.8 was withdrawn.*

Agenda item 48: Follow-up to and implementation of the outcome of the 2002 International Conference on Financing for Development and the preparation of the 2008 Review Conference (*continued*) (A/C.2/63/L.37)

Draft resolution on the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus

7. **The Chairperson** invited the Committee to take action on draft resolution A/C.2/63/L.37, which had no programme budget implications and had not been changed after informal consultations. She noted that Bosnia and Herzegovina wished to join the list of sponsors.

8. *Draft resolution A/C.2/63/L.37 was adopted.*

Agenda item 49: Sustainable development (*continued*) (A/C.2/63/L.3/Rev.1 and Add.1)

Draft resolution on the reliable and stable transit of energy and its role in ensuring sustainable development and international cooperation

9. **The Chairperson** invited the Committee to take action on draft resolution A/C.2/63/L.3/Rev.1 and its addendum containing an additional list of sponsors (A/C.2/63/L.3/Rev.1/Add.1). The draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

10. **Ms. Ataeva** (Turkmenistan) said that agreement on the revised draft resolution had been reached as the result of diligent joint work by a large number of delegations in several rounds of informal consultations as well as many bilateral and multilateral meetings. Further delegations had joined the list of sponsors, which showed the high level of worldwide interest in the issue of reliable and stable energy transportation, especially in the light of current difficulties in the world economy. The draft resolution, which was simple, coherent and focused on international cooperation to ensure the reliable and stable transit of energy, was therefore particularly timely. While her delegation recognized that long-term work would be needed to establish the principles for cooperation, it was convinced that such a process was necessary and could have a very positive impact on economic development. Expressing hope that the first concrete steps in that direction would be taken at the high-level international conference which her delegation planned to convene in 2009, she urged the Committee to adopt the draft resolution by consensus.

11. The last preambular paragraph of the revised draft resolution A/C.2/63/L.3/Rev.1 should have been deleted; she therefore requested that the text should be revised accordingly.

12. **Mr. Isomatov** (Tajikistan) said that the statement made by the representative of Turkmenistan had clearly set out the arguments in favour of adopting the draft resolution. Noting that the proposed text was the result of active, broad-based work by interested delegations,

whose views had been taken into account, he invited the Committee to adopt the draft resolution by consensus.

13. **Mr. Jgenti** (Georgia) reiterated his firm support for the draft resolution, given that stable and reliable energy transportation was a key factor of sustainable development.

14. **Mr. Alimov** (Russian Federation) said that his delegation wished to join the list of sponsors. It was satisfied with the focused and well-balanced nature of the draft resolution and wished to emphasize the importance and timeliness of the reliable and stable transit of energy, which remained a priority for the Russian Federation. His delegation supported Turkmenistan's initiative to convene a high-level international conference on the issue and hoped that it would make a contribution to serious, long-term work in the area.

15. **Mr. Ali** (Syrian Arab Republic), expressing support for the draft resolution, said that his delegation wished to join the list of sponsors.

16. **Mr. Berguño** (Chile) said that his delegation supported Turkmenistan's initiative, which deserved the Committee's unanimous support, and welcomed the proposal to convene an international conference on the reliable and stable transportation of energy.

17. **Mr. Sydykov** (Kyrgyzstan) said that the draft resolution was timely and important. His delegation hoped that it would be adopted by consensus.

18. **Ms. Abdygaliyeva** (Kazakhstan), expressing support for the draft resolution, said that her country considered energy security to be one of the key factors of international stability. As one of the dynamically developing exporters of energy resources, Kazakhstan fully acknowledged its responsibility to maintain a stable supply of hydrocarbons to the world market and implement a balanced policy with regard to the development of energy export routes, while minimizing the environmental impact of its activity. Ensuring the stability of the global energy market in the face of sharp fuel price rises was in the common interest of all Member States. Her delegation regarded Turkmenistan's initiative to convene an international conference on the reliable and stable transportation of energy as a welcome initial step towards the coordination of global action on the issue. She called for the adoption of the revised draft resolution in its current form by consensus.

19. *Draft resolution A/C.2/63/L.3/Rev.1, as orally revised, and its addendum containing an additional list of sponsors (A/C.2/63/L.3/Rev.1/Add.1) were adopted.*

(d) Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind (*continued*) (A/C.2/63/L.15 and L.45)

Draft resolution on protection of global climate for present and future generations

20. **The Chairperson** introduced draft resolution A/C.2/63/L.45, which was being submitted by Mr. Metelitsa (Belarus), Vice-Chairperson of the Committee, on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/63/L.15. The draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

21. *Draft resolution A/C.2/63/L.45 was adopted.*

22. *Draft resolution A/C.2/63/L.15 was withdrawn.*

23. **Mr. Hua** (France), speaking in explanation of position on behalf of the European Union, expressed satisfaction at the adoption by consensus of the draft resolution and said that it would send a strong signal of support and encouragement to the negotiators at the upcoming sessions in Poznan, Poland, of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol. With political will, the negotiators could pave the way for a global and complete agreement at the 2009 session in Copenhagen. Throughout negotiations on the draft resolution, the European Union had consistently stressed the need to reflect, in a balanced manner, the five key building blocks of negotiation set out in the Bali Action Plan, namely, shared vision, mitigation, adaptation, technology and financing.

24. The developed countries should lead the way by committing themselves to ambitious emission reduction targets, while developing countries also took appropriate measures, in line with the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities. Only through that approach could the deep cuts in greenhouse gas emissions mentioned in the preamble to the draft resolution be achieved. For that reason, the European Union had sought to include a reference in the resolution to the importance of mitigation. The Union had pledged to

reduce emissions by 20 per cent by 2020 compared with 1990 levels and by up to 30 per cent provided that other developed countries made similar commitments and that the more economically advanced developing countries made an adequate contribution.

25. The draft resolution marked a significant step forward in the General Assembly's response to the challenge of climate change. The increased references to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and the encouragement conveyed to the Secretary-General to mobilize political will were steps in the right direction. The paragraph referring to the operationalization of the Adaptation Fund accurately reflected the progress of negotiations. Lastly, the Union welcomed the acknowledgement of the need to include gender mainstreaming in the policies of mitigation and adaptation to climate change, a point that could be further examined in the years ahead.

26. **Mr. Metelitsa** (Belarus), Vice-Chairperson, said he was very pleased that the Committee had achieved consensus on a highly topical and challenging issue.

27. **Ms. Greenaway** (Antigua and Barbuda), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that the issue of climate change should be viewed from the perspective of sustainable development, particularly the three priorities of economic and social development and poverty eradication. In negotiations on the draft resolution, the Group of 77 and China had sought to stress that climate change posed serious risks to all countries but particularly to the most vulnerable, namely the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries, small island developing States and countries in Africa. Moreover, climate change should be addressed in accordance with the principles identified in the Framework Convention, including the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, with the developed countries taking the lead. The Group of 77 and China were pleased that the draft resolution had been adopted by consensus.

28. **Mr. Ström** (Sweden), speaking as facilitator of the informal consultations, said that many ideas had been discussed at length in the informal consultations that were not reflected in the current draft resolution, notably the question of which ecosystems and regions had the greatest impact on the global climate system. The heavily discussed topic of mitigation was indeed reflected in the draft resolution but not in the explicit language some delegations would have preferred. Nevertheless, for the first time in three years the Committee had adopted by consensus a resolution on protection of global climate for present and future generations, a step that would send a positive message to negotiators at the upcoming conference in Poznan.

Agenda item 51: Globalization and interdependence (*continued*)

(a) Role of the United Nations in promoting development in the context of globalization and interdependence (*continued*) (A/C.2/63/L.33 and L.47)

Draft resolution on development cooperation with middle-income countries

29. **The Chairperson** introduced draft resolution A/C.2/63/L.47, which was being submitted by Mr. Torrington (Guyana), Vice-Chairperson of the Committee, on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/63/L.33. The draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

30. *Draft resolution A/C.2/63/L.47 was adopted.*

31. *Draft resolution A/C.2/63/L.33 was withdrawn.*

32. **Mr. Torrington** (Guyana), Vice-Chairperson, noted that the draft resolution was the first the Committee had ever adopted on development cooperation with middle-income countries.

33. **Ms. Ortiz de Urbina** (Spain), speaking as facilitator of the informal consultations, said that she was grateful to the delegations that had brought the issue to the Committee's attention and gratified by the adoption of the draft resolution by consensus.

Agenda item 53: Eradication of poverty and other development issues (*continued*)

(b) Industrial development cooperation (*continued*) (A/C.2/63/L.6 and L.46)

Draft resolution on industrial development cooperation

34. **The Chairperson** introduced draft resolution A/C.2/63/L.46, which was being submitted by Mr. Al-Aud (Yemen), Rapporteur of the Committee, on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/63/L.6. The draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

35. *Draft resolution A/C.2/63/L.46 was adopted.*

36. *Draft resolution A/C.2/63/L.6 was withdrawn.*

Organization of work

37. **The Chairperson** said that, in order for the Committee to complete its work as scheduled, it would be necessary for it to consider some draft resolutions in English only. Although that situation was less than ideal, if she heard no objections, she would take it that the Committee agreed to that method of work.

38. *It was so decided.*

The meeting rose at 11.10 a.m.

United Nations A/C.2/63/SR.30

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Summary record of the 30th meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Wednesday, 26 November 2008, at 10 a.m.

Chairperson: Ms. Ogwu ..... (Nigeria)
later: Mr. Torrington (Vice-Chairperson) ..... (Guyana)

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(c) International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (*continued*)

(e) Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa (*continued*)

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08-62047 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 10 a.m.

Agenda item 46: Information and communication technologies for development (*continued*)
(A/C.2/63/L.10 and L.55)

Draft resolutions on information and communication technologies for development

1. **The Chairperson** introduced draft resolution A/C.2/63/L.55, which was being submitted by Mr. Torrington (Guyana), Vice-Chairperson of the Committee, on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/63/L.10. The draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

2. *Draft resolution A/C.2/63/L.55 was adopted.*

3. *Draft resolution A/C.2/63/L.10 was withdrawn.*

The meeting was suspended at 11.18 a.m. and resumed at 12.07 p.m.

Agenda item 47: Macroeconomic policy questions (*continued*)

(d) Commodities (*continued*) (A/C.2/63/L.42)

Draft resolution on commodities

4. **The Chairperson** introduced draft resolution A/C.2/63/L.42. No changes had been made to the draft resolution following informal consultations, and it had no programme budget implications.

5. *Draft resolution A/C.2/63/L.42 was adopted.*

Agenda item 49: Sustainable development (*continued*)
(A/C.2/63/L.24/Rev.1)

Draft resolution on the oil slick on Lebanese shores

6. **The Chairperson** introduced draft resolution A/C.2/63/L.24. The draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

7. **Mr. Saleh** (Lebanon), speaking as the main sponsor of the draft resolution, said that there had been some minor editorial corrections to the French version.

8. **Ms. Greenaway** (Antigua and Barbuda), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China as a sponsor of the draft resolution, said that there had been some minor editorial corrections to the English version.

9. **The Chairman** said that a recorded vote had been requested on the draft resolution.

10. *A recorded vote was taken on draft resolution A/C.2/63/L.24/Rev.1.*

In favour:

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Cape Verde, Chile, China, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

Australia, Canada, Israel, Palau, United States of America.

Abstaining:

Cameroon, Chad, Colombia.

11. *Draft resolution A/C.2/63/L.24/Rev.1 was adopted by 154 votes to 5, with 3 abstentions.*

12. **Ms. Lebovits** (France), speaking on behalf of the European Union; the candidate countries Croatia and Turkey; the stabilization and association process countries Albania, Montenegro and Serbia; and, in addition, Liechtenstein, Republic of Moldova, Norway and Ukraine, said that the member States of the European Union had been among the first to provide assistance to Lebanon to mitigate the environmental consequences of the oil slick and would continue to do so. She stressed that the resolution should not be diluted and that the position taken during the current session should not prejudice the position that might be taken the following year.

13. **Mr. Ben-Eliezer** (Israel) said that in politicizing what should be treated as a local environmental issue, the resolution reflected the disturbing increase in politicization of the Committee's work in general, which distracted it from issues of substance. The resolution neglected to mention the 12 July 2006 kidnapping of Israeli Defence Force soldiers by the Hizbullah organization, which had provoked the hostilities in the first place; that incident had only been made possible because the Government of Lebanon had failed to exercise its sovereignty and disarm the Hizbullah militia in accordance with Security Council resolution 1559 (2004).

14. His country had cooperated with United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations to address environmental concerns with regard to Lebanon's coastline. Had the resolution been serious about addressing environmental issues, it would have mentioned the many thousands of acres of forest in his country that had been destroyed by the Hizbullah organization's rockets. The resolution's call for a new mechanism would create yet another permanent and expensive installation of anti-Israelism in the United Nations system. Since 1991 there had been several oil spills of equal or greater tonnage than the spill in question, and no United Nations resolutions had resulted. He suggested that the Committee should adopt a general resolution on oil spills rather than engaging in the obvious act of political demonization represented by the resolution at hand.

15. **Mr. Saleh** (Lebanon) said that the consequences of the Israeli attack had adversely affected all three pillars — economic, social and environmental — of sustainable development in his country. Atmospheric contamination from the fire at the oil storage facility had caused respiratory symptoms among the population in the immediate area and had had a regional impact over a wide radius. The large amount of oil released into the sea had affected the natural habitats of many species. Damage to fish larvae and eggs had reduced the fish population and harmed his country's fishing industry. Pollution had even seeped from the sea into groundwater. The World Bank had estimated the damage at US$ 203 million, or one per cent of Lebanon's annual GDP for 2006, not including health, environmental and clean-up costs.

16. The fact that Israeli forces had targeted the oil storage facility two days in a row demonstrated that the attack was premeditated, in violation of provisions of Protocol I to the Geneva Conventions prohibiting methods of warfare that may be expected to cause damage to the natural environment. A United Nations Development Programme report had suggested that the attack could be interpreted as a war crime. The resolution would send a strong message upholding international legal provisions against attacks on the environment.

17. In response to the statement by the representative of Israel, he noted that had Israel implemented the relevant United Nations resolutions over the years, the entire region might have been spared the cycle of violence in which it found itself. The Hizbullah organization had not even existed prior to the Israeli invasion of 1982, and its activities fell well within the right of peoples to defend themselves and resist foreign occupation as enshrined in international humanitarian law, United Nations resolutions, and the Charter of the United Nations. The Israeli Government's own Winograd report had shown that Israel had been preparing its 2006 aggression against Lebanon for months and had merely taken the opportunity to launch it on 12 July. The fact that there were oil spills in other parts of the world was not a reason for the international community to close its eyes to the huge environmental damage caused by the Israeli attack. Israel needed to learn that it could not promote its interests by force of arms.

(b) Follow-up to and implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (*continued*) (A/C.2/63/L.12, L.13, L.44 and L.52)

Draft resolutions on the follow-up to and implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States

18. **The Chairperson** introduced draft resolution A/C.2/63/L.44, which was being submitted by Mr. Metelitsa (Belarus), Vice-Chairperson of the Committee, on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/63/L.12.

19. **Mr. Metelitsa** (Belarus), Vice-Chairperson, said that, at the end of paragraph 17, a phrase should be inserted, which would read, "as part of the General Assembly and requests the Secretary-General to report at the sixty-fourth session of the General Assembly on possible arrangements for the review;".

20. **Ms. de Laurentis** (Secretary of the Committee) said that should the Committee accept the revision made by the Vice-Chairperson, her oral statement on programme budget implications would no longer be applicable.

21. *Draft resolution A/C.2/63/L.44, as orally revised, was adopted.*

22. *Draft resolution A/C.2/63/L.12 was withdrawn.*

23. **Mr. Rangel** (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) said that his country continued to support the development of small island developing States and, to that end, the full implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States. His delegation took it that paragraphs 26 and 27 of the Mauritius Strategy applied solely to States parties to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. As the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela was not a party to that Convention, it was not obliged to apply related provisions, except those it had already recognized and incorporated into its legislation.

Draft resolutions entitled "Towards the sustainable development of the Caribbean Sea for present and future generations"

24. **The Chairperson** introduced draft resolution A/C.2/63/L.52, which was being submitted by Mr. Metelitsa (Belarus), Vice-Chairperson of the Committee, on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/63/L.13. The draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

25. **Ms. Santizo-Sandoval** (Guatemala) said that the draft resolution was a major step towards achieving sustainability for the Caribbean region.

26. She suggested making a few changes to the draft resolution in order to more accurately reflect the agreements reached in the negotiations process. In addition to noting a minor drafting change, she said that in the thirteenth preambular paragraph, the first letter of each word in the phrase "large marine ecosystems" should be capitalized; furthermore, the phrase "wider Caribbean Sea region" in the twentieth preambular paragraph and the phrase "wider Caribbean region" in paragraph 12 should be replaced with "Wider Caribbean Region" to reflect the official name of the region. Finally, the phrase ", inter alia," should be inserted after the word "including" in paragraphs 1 and 2.

27. *Mr. Torrington (Guyana), Vice-Chairperson, took the Chair.*

28. *Draft resolution A/C.2/63/L.52, as orally revised, was adopted.*

29. *Draft resolution A/C.2/63/L.13 was withdrawn.*

30. **Mr. Söylemez** (Turkey) said that his delegation had joined the consensus on the draft resolution because it addressed a number of important issues. However, it wished to dissociate itself from references to international instruments to which Turkey was not a party. The fact that his delegation had joined the consensus should not be interpreted as a change in his country's legal position.

31. **Mr. Meurs** (United States of America) said that his delegation had joined the consensus on the draft resolution because, as a Caribbean nation, the United States viewed "consideration of the concept of the Caribbean Sea as a special area in the context of sustainable development" as a regional and domestic concern of Caribbean States in seeking to improve regional coordination on environmental and natural resource-related issues.

32. The creation of such areas must be consistent with international law, as reflected in the text of the draft resolution. Furthermore, the right to freedom of navigation should in no way be infringed by any consideration or future designation of the Caribbean Sea as a special area in the context of sustainable development. Therefore, consideration of the features of such a special area must be narrowly focused on the objectives to be achieved. Lastly, any such designation in the future must involve the consensus of all Caribbean nations.

33. **Mr. Rangel** (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) said that he firmly supported the development of the Caribbean region but reiterated that his country should not be obliged to comply with paragraphs 26 and 27 of the Mauritius Strategy, as it was not a party to the instrument mentioned therein.

34. **Ms. Moseley** (Barbados) said that the Caribbean Sea was a vital region, both socially and culturally. Her delegation would continue to work towards the designation of that region as a special area within the context of sustainable development, in accordance with the rules of international law. She noted the concerns of some delegations and assured them of her openness and willingness to address all such concerns.

(c) International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (*continued*) (A/C.2/63/L.28, L.30, L.50 and L.51)

Draft resolutions on the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction

35. **The Chairperson** introduced draft resolution A/C.2/63/L.51, which was being submitted by Mr. Metelitsa (Belarus), Vice-Chairperson of the Committee, on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/63/L.28. The draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

36. *Draft resolution A/C.2/63/L.51 was adopted.*

37. *Draft resolution A/C.2/63/L.28 was withdrawn.*

Draft resolutions on natural disasters and vulnerability

38. **The Chairperson** introduced draft resolution A/C.2/63/L.50, which was being submitted by Mr. Metelitsa (Belarus), Vice-Chairperson of the Committee, on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/63/L.30. The draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

39. **Ms. Grau** (Switzerland) said that, in the fifth preambular paragraph, the word "developing" should be deleted in the phrase "disaster-prone developing countries".

40. *Draft resolution A/C.2/63/L.50, as orally revised, was adopted.*

41. *Draft resolution A/C.2/63/L.30 was withdrawn.*

(e) Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa (*continued*) (A/C.2/63/L.16 and L.53)

Draft resolutions on the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa

42. **The Chairperson** introduced draft resolution A/C.2/63/L.53, which was being submitted by Mr. Metelitsa (Belarus), Vice-Chairperson of the Committee, on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/63/L.16. The draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

43. **Mr. Saleh** (Lebanon) said that, in the third preambular paragraph, the phrase "articles 1, 2 and 3 of the Convention" should be revised to read "articles 1 and 3 of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa". The phrase "2008-2018" should be added, in brackets, at the end of the fourth preambular paragraph.

44. In the seventh preambular paragraph, the words "the secretariats of" should be deleted, as should the phrase "adopted at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development".

45. In paragraph 5, the words "by the Conference of the Parties" should be deleted and the words "of the United Nations" should be inserted after "Joint Inspection Unit". In paragraph 9, the word "preventing" should be changed to "protecting" and the words "and to create" should be replaced with the words "in order to create". In paragraph 12, the words "States parties to the Convention" should be replaced with "countries parties" and, in paragraph 13, the words "and adequate" should be inserted after the word

"sufficient". He also made a number of minor drafting changes.

46. *Draft resolution A/C.2/63/L.53, as orally revised, was adopted.*

47. *Draft resolution A/C.2/63/L.16 was withdrawn.*

The meeting rose at 1.15 p.m.